

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a meeting on Monday, July 22, 2013 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7:00pm.

PRESENT:	Mervin R. Livsey	----	Supervisor
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	James Stradley	----	Council Member
	June Gunza	----	Council Member
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	Kelly Blauvelt	----	Comptroller
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

The Supervisor opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MINUTES

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to accept the minutes from the July 22, 2013 Town Board meeting.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gokey)

0-nays

1-abstain (Gunza)

COMMUNICATONS

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from Ralph Montellese resigning from the ZBA.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to accept the resignation of Ralph Montellese.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)

0-nays

Supervisor Livsey has a letter from Konstantinos Fatsis resigning from his position of Town Justice effective July 15, 2013 at 5:01pm.

TOWN BOARD

JULY 22, 2013

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to accept the resignation of Konstantinos Fatsis.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays**

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from the Church of the Holy Innocents about extending the sidewalk at the Chapel on St. Mark's Place. The Supervisor provided this information to the Board, the Building Inspector and will give it to Highway Supt. Squicciarini when he returns from vacation.

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from Donald & Debra Wik expressing their objections to the closing of Mine Road. The Supervisor encouraged anyone else with concerns to send a letter to himself or COL Rideout.

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from the Highland Falls Fort Montgomery Central School District regarding the water expansion project and getting water to the Fort School. The Supervisor said the School District will to assist with getting the water to the school. The Supervisor said that at a recent meeting with the school, two (2) issues were taken care of and next week there is a meeting with the Settlement Master to discuss the third issue, which is money.

FINANCIAL REPORTS, REQUESTS & RESOLUTIONS

Accounts Payable:

Supervisor Livsey said the Accounts Payable total was \$63,051.79 and the Water District #2 payments were \$2,516 (Attorney) and \$237,410.16 (Contractor).

The Supervisor said the Water Project is moving along nicely.

Budget Transfer:

Supervisor Livsey has a request from Dog Control to transfer money.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to approve the transfer of \$400 from Dog Control Other to Dog Control Fuel & Uniforms.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays**

Budget Process:

Supervisor Livsey said the Budget Workshops will be held after the regular meetings, if possible and that if more Mondays are needed they will be added.

TOWN BOARD

JULY 22, 2013

Ms. Blauvelt explained that all Departments have their budget packets and she is setting up meetings between the Department Heads and their Liaisons. Ms. Blauvelt said the Supervisor is asking for a 5% decrease and she has advised the departments to pull out the salary line from their packet to get a more accurate picture of their budget.

Supervisor Livsey said the Police and Highway are both Union and will get a raise this year. The Supervisor said for all the non-union employees, the Board will figure out what can be done at the end of the budget process.

Mr. Rider reminded the Board to pass the legislation to exceed the 2% tax cap.

Supervisor Livsey asked Mr. Rider to remind him at a later date. The Supervisor also said that the Board had passed that legislation last year, but did not use it.

Mr. Rider said he would coordinate with Ms. Blauvelt.

REPORT FROM JUDGE DONALDSON

Judge Donaldson said he would like the Board to allow him to handle all the court matters until the end of the year and also receive the salary from the vacant judge position. Mr. Donaldson said the last time a judge resigned he did this and he said if it becomes too much he will let the Board know. Judge Donaldson said the next class for incoming judges is at the beginning of December and anyone appointed, unless they are an attorney, wouldn't be able to sit before attending this class.

Council Member Edsall asked what happens if Judge Donaldson is not in Town.

Judge Donaldson replied that a judge from an adjoining Town would be called.

Mr. Fatsis said he supports Judge Donaldson's request and believes that it would be a good move to let him handle all court matters.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to allow Judge Donaldson to handle all court matters and receive the second judge's salary effective immediately.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays**

MINE DOCK PARK COMMITTEE

Supervisor Livsey announced that there is now a Mine Dock Park Committee and the President is Patrick Papaccio.

Mr. Papaccio said the Committee is in the process of getting an EIN and he has submitted the paperwork, to the state, to be non-profit and for the name. Mr. Papaccio introduced the other members of the Committee: Jim Thomson, Phil Collins, Scott Craven and Steve Blauvelt. Mr. Papaccio said the Committee is looking for historic pictures.

Supervisor Livsey said he and Council Member Edsall have discussed many contracts with Scenic Hudson. The Supervisor said the only involvement the Town has is the insurance. The Supervisor said the Town has not spent any money and he doesn't plan to unless necessary and then the Town will look for reimbursement.

Council Member Gunza said she is happy the Committee is working diligently on this.

Supervisor Livsey informed everyone that Stella Root is the Treasurer for the Committee.

Ms. Blauvelt said that Ms. Root came to see her about the EIN to submit a Consolidated Funding Application for a grant. Ms. Blauvelt registered the Town for the matching grant and has told the Highway workers to keep track of the time they work down there because that will count towards the Town's matching amount. Ms. Blauvelt said the grant application must be submitted by August 12.

Council Member Edsall said was previously discussed about setting up a separate account for the donations that are received for the park.

Ms. Blauvelt said she can open a Trust & Agency account.

Mr. Rider said that should be acceptable, but the main thing is the Town cannot fundraise.

Council Member Edsall asked if someone could write a check to the Town of Highlands for the Mine Dock Park.

Mr. Rider said that was permissible.

BOARD REPORTS

Council Member Gokey:

Council Member Gokey said the Assessor has the final roll available.

Council Member Gokey said the Building Department is waiting on the Board's input on some violations they wrote.

Council Member Gokey said IT has been quiet and she has a proposal for the IPrism for the Highway Garage and Police Department.

Council Member Gunza:

Council Member Gunza reported the Ambulance Corps and Police Department have been busy.

Council Member Gunza said Dog Control is moving along.

Council Member Gunza said the Emergency Preparedness Committee has completed the Hazard Analysis.

Council Member Stradley:

Council Member Stradley said the Recreation Summer sports are almost over and the Fall sports are getting ready to begin.

Council Member Stradley reported that the Highway Department is doing maintenance and there is a new hire for Sanitation.

Council Member Stradley said he will be meeting with Colleen Solan about the Dial-A-Bus budget.

Council Member Edsall:

Council Member Edsall reported that the Mine Dock Park Committee is doing a good job. Mr. Edsall said there are no parking signs down there and asked if the Police could keep an eye on the parking. Mr. Edsall said there has been discussion about a Parking Sticker Program with the revenue going into the Park account. Mr. Edsall said the next Committee meeting will be mid-September.

Council Member Edsall said he has not heard back from O&R about the Light-up Program.

Mr. Papaccio informed the Board that the Mine Dock Park Committee has a Facebook page. Mr. Papaccio said it is under "Friends of Mine Dock Park".

GUEST

Supervisor Livsey welcomed Village Trustee DiSalvo to the meeting.

Trustee DiSalvo announced that the Village Board meeting on August 5 will be held at the Town Hall.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Livsey said that the PIPC owns Brooks Park and they allow the Town to do almost anything. The Supervisor said that in the future, the PIPC plans to buy the Mine Dock Park from Scenic Hudson and the Town will have the same agreement.

Council Member Edsall asked if the Board would consider renaming the stream.

Mr. Rider said it could be looked into.

Council Member Edsall said he will ask the Battlesite for ideas at their next meeting.

Supervisor Livsey said he thinks the stream is owned by the PIPC.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution Fawnwood Lane Parking:

Council Member Gunza said she went and looked at the area in question and she doesn't believe it is big enough for any truck, including emergency vehicles.

The Board held a lengthy discussion on this issue.

Mr. Rider suggested that the Board table this and schedule a new public hearing on the re-drafted local law.

Supervisor Livsey said if it was up to him he would move the resolution and have it defeated.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to adopt the resolution to prohibit parking on Fawnwood Lane at all times.

RESOLUTION DEFEATED: 0-ayes

5-nays (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)

Employee Medical Insurance:

Supervisor Livsey said that all employees were given something in writing about the new insurance plan and a representative has been in to answer any questions. The Supervisor stated that NYSHIP coverage will end August 31, 2013 and CDPHP will begin September 1. The Supervisor said that any employee that doesn't return their enrollment forms will not be enrolled and will have no health insurance as of September 1.

Ms. Blauvelt said the Town will be funding the deductible for the new plan and she would like to set up a new bank account for this money.

Supervisor Livsey said that was okay with him.

Ms. Blauvelt said the Board needs to decide how to handle the deductible with new hires or an employee that joins because of an event. Ms. Blauvelt said some municipalities fund the full the deductible and others pro-rate it.

Supervisor Livsey said the Town will fund the full deductible because any unused money goes back to the Town anyway.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Sanitation Dept. Hire & Personnel Change:

Supervisor Livsey said he was asked by Mr. Squicciarini to hire Ryan Falk as a Sanitation Laborer and move Bristin Marks to Sanitation Driver.

Ms. Blauvelt said the laborer makes \$18.58/hour and the driver makes \$20.62/hour and both are on the salary schedule.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to hire Ryan Falk as a Sanitation Laborer at the rate stated in the Salary Schedule and for the maximum probationary period.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays**

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to move Bristin Marks to the position of Sanitation Driver at the rate stated in the Salary Schedule and for the maximum probationary period.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays**

TOWN BOARD

JULY 22, 2013

Town of Highlands ZBA Members:

Supervisor Livsey said that when the Town and Village ZBA members were combined, the Board was authorized to have seven (7) members. The Supervisor said it was discussed at the Re-Organization Meeting about reducing that number to five (5) and because of two (2) resignations, there are only five (5) members currently on the ZBA. The Supervisor asked if the Board wanted to leave it at five (5) or appoint two (2) new members.

Council Member Gunza said the intent was to be five (5) members and it was only seven (7) to get it started.

The Board was okay with the ZBA being only five (5) members.

Trustee DiSalvo asked the Board to also reduce the number of years they are appointed for.

Supervisor Livsey asked Mr. DiSalvo to bring that up a Village Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Ciesla said he is concerned with the lack of a white line on the side of 9W in the area of Popolopen Bridge.

Supervisor Livsey said he would notify Mr. Squicciarini.

Annie Scott thanked the Board for defeating the resolution for no parking on Fawnwood Lane. Ms. Scott also stated that she would not like to see the Town and Village take over the 4th of July celebration.

Joan Cronin stated that she is glad the Village Board will be having their meeting at the Town Hall on August 5 and asked all the seniors to come to the meeting. Ms. Cronin said she asked Village Treasurer, Ed Magryta, what the hold-up was with the Senior Center and she was informed that there was no money.

ADJOURN

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Gokey)
0-nays

Attest,